

Appl. No.: 10/726,918
Amdt. dated July 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 4, 2006

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated April 4, 2006. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the application as evidenced by the Office Action. In light of the Office Action, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 5, 6, 12, 13, and 16 to further clarify the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited references. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application in light of the following remarks.

I. Claims 5 and 12 Are Definite

On page 2, the Office Action rejects Claim 5 as indefinite. Applicant has amended Claim 5 in light of the Examiner's suggestions. Applicant noted similar issues with Claim 12 and amended it appropriately. In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5 and 12 are definite.

II. Claims Are Patentable

On page 3, the Office Action rejects the claims in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,013,108 to Karolys. Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. The '108 Karolys patent does not appear to teach or suggest a bus controller that transmits signals serially over a common digital bus and a plurality of network device interfaces connected to the common digital bus in parallel to perform predefined functions in parallel to thereby support high speed communication over the common digital bus.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit independent Claims 1, 6, 13, and 16, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are patentable over the cited references. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper.

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However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

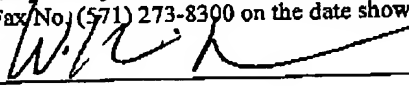
Respectfully submitted,



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